

REMARKS

The amendments made herein are supported in the original specification in the Abstract; Figure 1; Column 1, lines 5-7; Column 2, lines 47-52, lines 61-67; Column 3, lines 1-7; Column 4, lines 11-27, lines 61-67; Column 5, lines 59-63; and Column 9, lines 5-14. No new material has been introduced in the amended claims when considering that the specification describes the currently claimed customer service device or vending machine to be interchangeable with the gaming machine shown and described therein.

The Examiner has stated in his Response to Arguments that the limitation of the incorporation of the note acceptor-dispenser validator into a vending machine, should have no patentable weight afforded to it since it was recited in the preamble of the claims. Since it is the intent of the applicant as stated in the specification (Col. 4, lines 61-67) to incorporate the acceptor-dispenser validator into a vending machine, the claims have been amended to reflect said limitation in the body of each claim.

The Examiner has also indicated that the automatic teller machine of both Katou (US 2004/0182677A1) and Graef (US 6,315,194) “can be construed to be a vending machine because they both vend and dispense a product-Money”. The applicant maintains the position that an automated teller machine (ATM) is not a vending machine. Money is not a “commercial product” that can be legally produced by any entity in the US besides the Federal Government. In fact the U. S. Government regulates not only the production of money but also its value and the operators of ATMs under the authority of the United States Department of the Treasury. Whereas US businesses which produce and/or sell commercial products by way of vending machines are regulated under the United States Department of Commerce. It should also be noted that previous conventional vending machines vend commercial products, but do not dispense recycled notes.

The Examiner has presented a seemingly inconsistent argument above as compared to his common representation of the features anticipated by both Katou and Graef, where he has said “the entire structure being construed as the validator”. Indeed if the entire structure described by both Katou and Graef were to be construed as the validator then these same structures can not be also construed as the vending machine. Neither reference, Katou nor Graef, claims or teaches the incorporation of a note acceptor-dispenser into a conventional vending machine to enhance the vending machine’s ability to dispense notes as change following a sale of various commercial

products.

In view of the foregoing discussion of the references relied upon by the examiner in light of the amendments contained herein, the applicant respectfully requests the allowance of the claims as set forth herein.

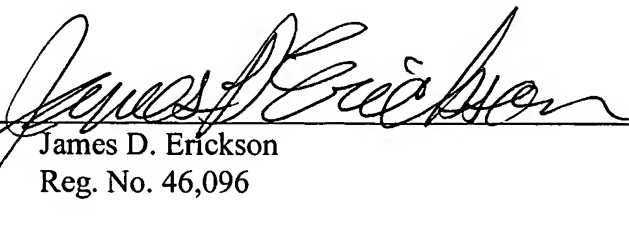
If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would assist in the examination of this application, please call the undersigned representative James Erickson at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date

4/12/06

By



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